

**Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce Candidate Questionnaire
City of Easley Elections (Mayoral Runoff) – Candidate Responses**

Question	Candidate Response	
	Lisa Talbert	Butch Womack
How long have you been a resident in the City of Easley?	34 years	57 years
Do you own a business (either currently or previously)? If yea, name of business?	No	No
What elected/appointed positions have you previously held or currently hold?	None	I was Fire Chief for the City of Easley for 26 years and with Easley Fire Department for 34 years. I was a Reserve Deputy for 30 years with the Picken County Sheriff's Office. I am the current Mayor of the City of Easley and have served for the past four years.
Please tell us about your campaign (i.e. message / platform, strategy, endorsements / support, etc.)	My campaign has a Facebook page (Lisa Talbert for Mayor of Easley). My weekly video messages, platform, scheduled events, and flyers are all housed there. Interested voters can find additional information there.	My campaign is based on what I have been able to accomplish over the past four years. I still base my campaign on honesty, integrity, and experience. My support comes from my faith, my family, and an abundance of friends who believe in what I am doing. My supporters understand my accomplishments for the City of Easley far outweigh the naysayers who would have everyone believe that I am not fully behind them. I still have their back.
Please list any other details you would like to share about yourself or your campaign.	I'm a citizen with a corporate background that simply believes Easley deserves better and that we can do better. I stepped up to help make that happen. If the people want change, they have to do their part and vote for it.	I grew up in this City. I met my wife, and we raised our family in this City. I worked my entire career in this City. I left a job that I was very successful in to be the mayor of this City. I love this City. I have no personal gain in being Mayor. I am truly and genuinely running for re-election because of my love for this great City.

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<p>If elected, what are your top goals/priorities for your term in office?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the form of government from “Mayor-Council” to “Council-Manager”. • Responsible development (six-month+ moratorium on new developments for further review of ordinances and compliance) • Financial transparency • Freedom of Speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlarge the parking lot at Nalley Brown Park to allow more visitors to have a safe space to park their vehicles. • Secure land for a new fire station. • Create a botanical garden to serve as an event space for weddings, field trips, and tourists to enjoy. • Extend the Doodle Trail to give more space for our citizens to exercise and see the scenic natural resources in the City of Easley. • Oversee that departments are continuing responsible spending. Over the last four years, the fund balance has grown while my administration has taken out zero bonds so that the citizens are not paying for interest payments that aren’t necessary.
<p>In your opinion, what are the top issues facing the City of Easley?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overdevelopment • Traffic congestion/Infrastructure • Lack of financial transparency • Citizen’s concerns are being ignored and are not being heard 	<p>The biggest issues facing the City of Easley are growth, road maintenance, and misinformation being spread. Growth is undoubtedly good and bad. It brings revenue into the city, but also increases traffic. The Council is in place to make decisions that are best for the community, but we must remember that property owners have rights. Roads are an issue. The citizens of Easley pay a road tax to the county and state, and I have worked diligently to try to get our fair share of that revenue to improve the city roads. I also speak with SCDOT regularly regarding their contributions to state roads within our city limits. One of our biggest issues is misinformation being told. Not everyone is going to like me or the decisions that I make, but I love this city and its citizens. I always have the best interests of the citizens in the forefront of my mind when giving my opinion or making a decision that affects us.</p>

<p>Regarding current and projected commercial and residential growth in the City of Easley, what are your ideas on how the City of Easley will meet this growing demand?</p>	<p>Chamber Position Statement: The Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce values the importance of business and entrepreneurial development. In order to ensure the economic sustainability of our community, we must support efforts to effectively attract, grow, and retain businesses. We further realize that ongoing managed growth of our infrastructure and residential markets will play a significant role in building our community's foundation to support long-term business growth and sustainability.</p>	
	<p>Lisa Talbert</p>	<p>Butch Womack</p>
	<p>In reviewing our 2022 comprehensive plan, it is replete with references to Master Plans for various departments. A thorough review and assessment of each departmental Master Plan is essential to mapping productive future growth.</p>	<p>We will meet this growth head-on by working with property owners, developers, builders, and citizens of Easley to ensure that all are treated fairly, impact fees are collected and used accordingly, and keep communicating with other government officials that Easley matters.</p>
<p>What are your thoughts on how growth in the City of Easley relates to Easley's ongoing business development and sustainability?</p>	<p>Chamber Position Statement: The Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce values the importance of business and entrepreneurial development. In order to ensure the economic sustainability of our community, we must support efforts to effectively attract, grow, and retain businesses. We further realize that ongoing managed growth of our infrastructure and residential markets will play a significant role in building our community's foundation to support long-term business growth and sustainability.</p>	
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	<p>Businesses need a voice in Easley. A Business Summit would be a good first step for business owners to come freely and for them to be able to openly share ideas and suggestions on how to promote the business areas of Easley.</p>	<p>Commercial growth relies on residential growth. It is not good business for a corporation/company to invest in an area where there is little or no growth. Easley has seen a large growth in commercial interests and one of the benefits of this to the citizens is that local option sales taxes collected helps keep the City portion of their annual property tax bills very low.</p>
<p>What issues or principles do you think all candidates for City of Easley offices agree on?</p>	<p>I believe the three candidates in this election offer three very different platforms. Voters must do their homework and decide which candidate aligns with what they envision for the city's future. Voting matters. Show up.</p>	<p>I think all candidates agree that growth and road conditions are issues that face the city. I think we also all want the best for Easley. I think experience and understanding of how local government works is a deciding factor. We can all have similar visions, but promising solutions that are not within your control is not the answer. I will not promise more than I can do, but I will do what I promise when re-elected.</p>
<p>If elected, how would you work with other City elected officials (newly elected and existing) to accomplish those issues and principles you agree on?</p>	<p>My focus is to have the city successfully operate with transparency, be open to the public, focus on smart and responsible growth, with a voice and a place for all.</p>	<p>I think the best way to handle differing opinions is to be mindful and respectful. It's obvious that we will not agree on everything, but talking it through while being civil is going to be key. Remembering that issues are going to require compromise is also important. Honesty is the start of compromise.</p>