

BURLINGTON MUNICIPAL ELECTION – FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

– Voters may select 1 for mayor –

Jim Butler

Beth Kennett

11a. The city should always be engaged in community outreach initiatives to determine any racial climate/race relations policy that may need to be changed or improved. The recent re-chartering of Community Police Advisory Team is just one example of how community engagement is working in Burlington.

12. Legally we do not have much authority. We should use the authority we have to ensure public safety while working with providers to assist them.

13.

a. Support.
b. Support.
c. Support. Important to note this is conceptual and work in process. Stance may change based on final recommendations.
14.

a. My answer depends on location.
b. Support.
c. Oppose. Unless part of a larger project.
d. Oppose, unless it became part of a more comprehensive project; I would then re-assess.
e. Oppose.

15. Support. We have received \$10 million in downtown funding from the state.

16. More.

17. We are nearly fully staffed at 152 officers, up from a low of 105 in 2021. This increase in personnel means we can proactively enforce laws, investigate crime, and reduce crime. Proper staffing means a stronger community presence. We must work with the judicial system to prosecute violent offenders.

18. Now that we are near full staffing, more time should be dedicated to policing high crime areas to eliminate the threat of gang activity.
19. I would agree that short staffing plagued us in recent years, however we have worked to become fully staffed with a primary focus on Community Policing and presence in all areas. Our current level of staffing will allow us to address the issue and correct shortcomings.

20. Support.

21. Community input is critical to proper policing. We recently re-chartered CPAT creating better engagement and focus so police leadership may leverage their input and feedback.

22. Most of the actions I disagreed with have been addressed over the last 2 years. While not perfect, we are operating well and our city is thriving, ranking in the top 15 out of over 200 municipalities our size. We have rectified personnel shortages and, increased pay for first responders.

QUESTIONS

11a. What, if any, city policies should be changed or adopted to improve the racial climate/race relations in the city? [50 word limit]

12. What, if anything, should the city be doing to address the issue of the homeless in the downtown area? [25 word limit]

13. Earlier this year, the city council heard a presentation that proposed to make significant changes in the downtown area, specifically the widen sidewalks, narrow some driving lanes, and reduce the number of parking spaces in the downtown area (eliminating 65 or 299 existing on-street parking spaces). In general, do you support or oppose these concepts?
a. Widen sidewalks
b. Narrow some driving lanes
c. Reduce the number of on-street parking spaces

Recreation projects
14. City officials and some consultants working for the city have outlined a series of potential projects that the city should consider undertaking over the next few years. Please indicate which of the following you would support or oppose:
a. A skate park
b. An indoor recreation center in West Burlington
c. A specialized beach volleyball court
d. A 17-court pickleball complex at City Park (cost estimate of \$3.225 million)
e. Putting a dome over tennis courts at City Park (cost estimate of \$1.355 million)

15. City officials have also proposed a plan to expand Burlington's Paramount Theater renovation project that would raise this project's overall cost from \$7 million to \$11.3 million. When this proposal comes back before the council, would you support or oppose this additional funding?
Law Enforcement
16. In general, do you support more, the same, or less funding for Burlington's police department?
17. Some citizens continue to express concerns about the shootings, especially on the east side of the city. What is your own assessment of Burlington's crime rate and trends, and how well Burlington's police are responding to the shootings? [50 word limit]

18. What, if anything, should the city do to reduce the threat of gangs, and the graffiti they paint in some areas of the city? [25-word limit]

19. In the past, some of Burlington's black leaders and black pastors have expressed concerns about what they have considered to be an inadequate police patrol presence in east Burlington. Give your assessment of the current status of policing and police relationships in black communities of the city. [50 word limit]

20. Sheriff Terry Johnson has suggested that Burlington should consider establishing a police sub-station on the east side of the city, and he has volunteered that he would contribute two deputies to being a part of the staffing there. Would you support or oppose the idea of the city establishing a police sub-station in east Burlington?

21. What, if anything, do you feel can/will be accomplished by the community police advisory team established by the city council several years ago? [25-word limit]

22. What is your area of strongest disagreement with action(s) taken by the city council in the past 2-5 years? [50 word limit]

Voters may select 2 for city council

Charlie Beasley

Dejuana Bigelow

Celo Faucette

Bob Ward

11a. Most of those policies are already in place above city level and are applicable at city level. You can never improve "racial climate" through city ordinance or policy. It must be a grassroots effort to understand each other on a personal level; that is what breeds unity, not city policy.

12. I honestly do not have a good answer. There are shelters, assistance programs, churches, etc. who can be engaged by city to help homeless individuals.

13.

a. Support.
b. Support.
c. Support. Only if the price tag is not absurdly expensive.

14.

a. Support.
b. Support.
c. Oppose.

d. Oppose.

e. Oppose.

15. Oppose.

16. More.

17. While our police are doing great work. Burlington is still struggling with an overall crime rate that is effectively twice the national average, due to a myriad of issues ranging from socioeconomic problems to drug trafficking as well as other criminal elements from outside the city.

18. Proper staffing and training for officers as well as joint task force operations with other law enforcement bodies.

19. I have attended several events in East Burlington through business and have never seen negative interaction during those times. I think majority of people understand nature of community policing, but we need to re-develop trust between officers and individuals that has been disrupted by national narrative that doesn't apply everywhere.

20. Support.

21. It gives citizens voice, an avenue of communication with police. It should also serve as first level of warning if there is a true problem.

22. The extended period without tax considerations followed by an 18%+ rate hike.

11a. City Charter changes expanding the Council to seven members and creating 3 wards will improve the representation of our marginalized residents. True representation and power to shape decisions within our city is the only way to drive full economic prosperity and representation where all residents can reach their full potential.

12. Provide resources for individuals that need mental health and/or substance abuse treatment.

13.

a. Support.
b. Support.
c. Support.

14.

a. Support.
b. Support.
c. Oppose.

d. Oppose.

e. Oppose.

15. No response.

16. The same.

17. Juvenile crime rates are alarming. There is city owned recreation centers located in the heart of each area with high crimes, let's invest in those facilities first. A \$3.225 million investment in pickleball courts isn't a bad idea but it's not a life-or-death investment.

18. Continue to remain proactive and attentive.

19. Burlington has worked very hard with community leaders to build trust with residents in East Burlington. Very proud of former chief Jeffrey Smythe's commitment remain proactive & make all residents of Burlington a priority. BPD's commitment to training and CALEA certifications sets them apart from all agencies in Alamance.
20. Oppose.

11a. The city should change its hiring practices to ensure more diversity at city hall.

12. Some cities build tiny homes and apartments for homeless people who are willing to work. I'm sure there's grants we can tap for that purpose.

13.

a. Oppose.
b. Oppose.
c. Oppose.

14.

a. Oppose.
b. Support.
c. Oppose.

d. Oppose.

e. Oppose.

15. Oppose.

16. More.

17. If we can find funding to install surveillance systems that detect gunshots in high crime areas, that should help with some of the issues the police department face.

18. If you see something, say something.

19. Officers who patrol certain neighborhoods do need to get out more and make friends with the community to give residents a sense of security that the BPD is on the job.

20. Support

21. If you're on the police advisory board, you need to have some sort of training to understand what the police do.

22. I hope the changes going on in downtown now are the last ones we'll see.

11a. I believe periodic public forums would be helpful in addressing racial relationships. These would provide opportunities for a continuing dialogue that could identify issues and solutions for improving racial relationships.

12. In 2022, the City Manager established a team headed by the Police Chief and the Community Engagement Manager to address the issues related to the homeless in the downtown business district.
13.

a. Support.
b. Support.
c. Support.

14.

a. Support.
b. Support.
c. *

d. Support.

e. *
*Would first like to have the benefit of recommendations to be provided in the forthcoming Master Recreation Plan regarding these issues.
15. Support.

16. The same.

17. I believe our Police Department has and continues to generally develop plans to reduce crime and the potential for shootings in all areas of the city. To help accomplish these goals, I believe the PD is being proactive and is creating a visible presence where past calls for service have been high for crime including shootings.
18. Presently, I believe our Police Department is effectively addressing gang activity.

19. Currently, I believe our Police Department is doing an excellent job of policing and creating positive police relationships in black communities and with increased staffing, the police department is providing an increased police presence throughout all areas of the city.

20. I would rely on our Chief of Police to evaluate and provide an assessment of the need for establishing a police substation on the east side of the city. The Chief's recommendations regarding this matter would be necessary prior to any such consideration.
21. The community police advisory team provides a critical forum for communications from our citizens to our police department. These communications provide an avenue for our citizens to identify and share their concerns with our police department.
22. I have not had any strong disagreements with decisions made by the Council in the last 2-5