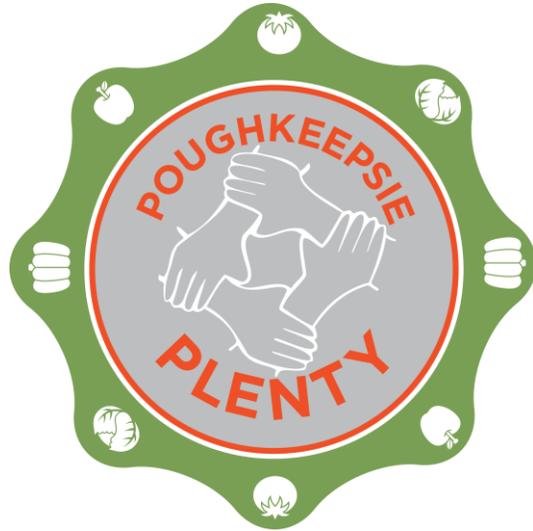


Poughkeepsie Plenty Food Coalition

2015 Election – Candidates Questionnaire



SUMMARY

The following report presents the unedited responses each Mayoral and Common Council candidate submitted to the Poughkeepsie Plenty Candidates' Questionnaire. Candidate contact information was collected from the Dutchess County Board of Elections. Each candidate received the survey by email on August 5th, with a deadline to respond by August 24th. Attempts were made to reach out to candidates who had not responded by August 20th and alternate methods to provide responses (on paper or by phone) were offered. This document contains the responses of the Council candidates.

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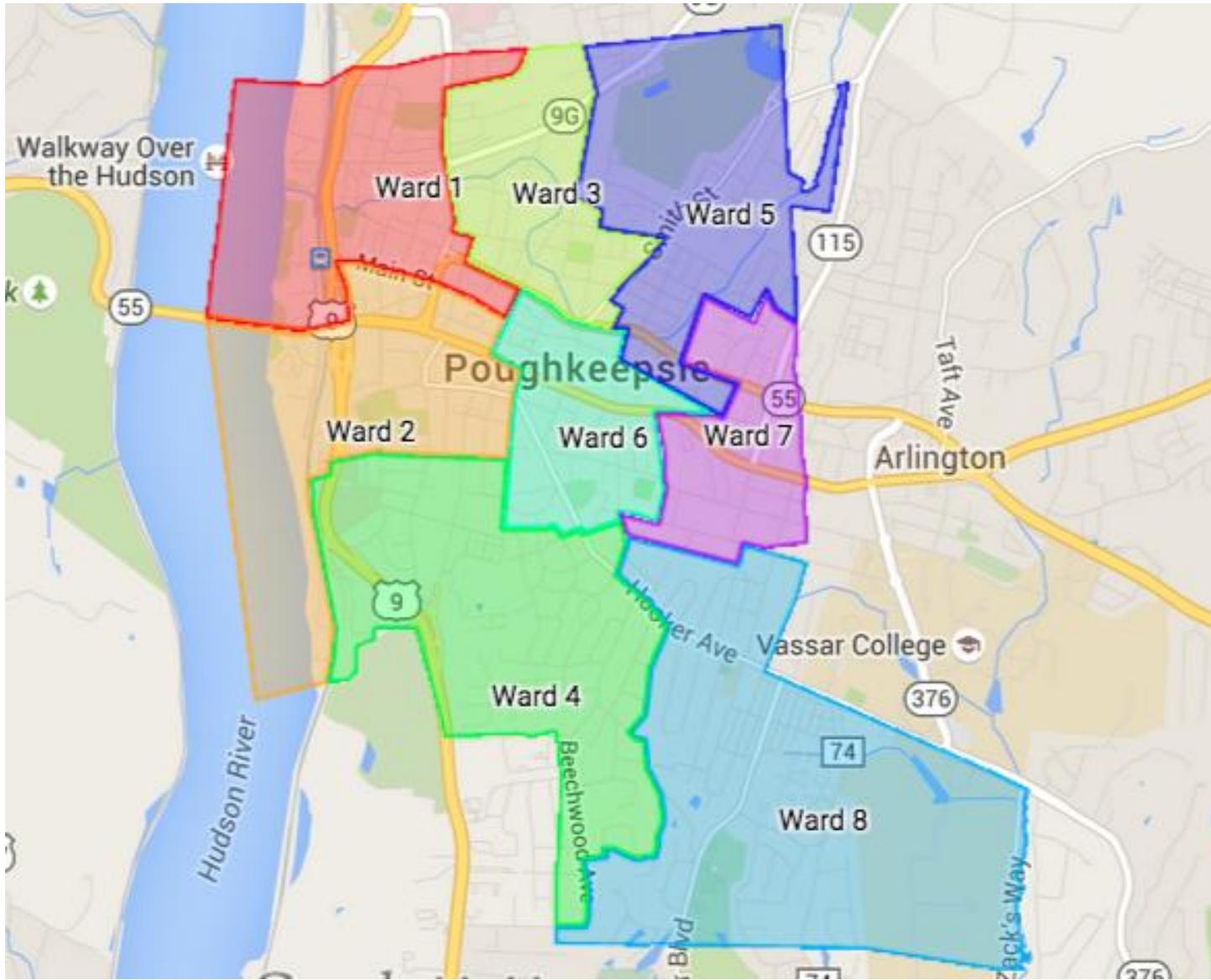
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City of Poughkeepsie Ward Map



Ward 1 Candidates

Issue 1: Support for the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market

Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
Chris Petsas	Dem	Yes	-	Social media and any other ideas that would help spread the word. I actually posted the unveiling of the Fresh Market on my Facebook when it occurred in front of the FPC.
Warren Jones	Dem	Yes	I support any initiative that would help indigent residents in the City of Poughkeepsie, and I also have a plan to help secure funding for the residents of the City of Poughkeepsie, to provide economic stimulation.	For me, everything is grassroots, so it would mean a bunch of door knocking to get the community involved in an initiative that works.

Issue 2: A living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	Do you support the passage of a living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	How would you engage the community on the living wage issue?	How would you garner support for a living wage ordinance from members of the Common Council?
Chris Petsas	Yes	The council just recently passed by a 6 to 2 vote a resolution endorsing a increase to \$15 for fast food workers. I was one of those supporting votes on the	Public participation in terms of public hearings, workshops, etc.	Like everything else we have worked on as a council - one on one meetings and with providing them the right information.



		resolution and will continue to support laws that increase the minimum wage.		
Warren Jones	Yes	Because we need to do better as a City in supporting its residents to be able to take care of themselves and their families. The problem with the Common Council and the past two Mayors is that they have not put together an economic plan that would help stimulate growth.	Number one is getting the residents involved and helping them understand that by working together we can stimulate economic growth. But you can't stimulate economic growth without a structure or a plan, and that starts with the Council and the Mayor.	You have to get the Common Council involved first in the formation of what is being done, and if they agree, they should want to support the initiative that is being brought forth.

Issue 3: A food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
Chris Petsas	A successful city will not have its residents feeling insecure about where their next meal is coming from and if they can afford to purchase food.	Very High	Last week after months of negotiating, paperwork was signed by a local developer who will build a supermarket on the northside of PK. This will be the first supermarket on this side of town in over 50 years.
Warren Jones	Because if people are hungry, they are not able to take care of their families, and then they will by any means necessary take care of their families and feed them.	Very High	This should be a priority for any administration and elected officials, to be able to provide food to feed the City of Poughkeepsie.



Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
Chris Petsas	Yes	Food insecurity is a major issue in this city and needs more attention. I appluad your efforts to bring this to light and into the public discussion.	-
Warren Jones	Yes	Because we need to be able to have a resolution and mandate that we take care of our residents and feed them. When you don't have an economic plan, you don't know how feed people, but there are outside resources and government agencies able to help.	I support the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market, it's a start. We also need to work with outside agencies to formulate a plan that would help the indigent people that are hungry.

Issue 4: Supporting healthy retail food options

Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
Chris Petsas	Yes	For the same reasons stated above.	Not sure. But willing to listen and come up with ideas.	Whatever I could do personally and whatever we as a council could do as a team.
Warren Jones	Yes	Elected officials don't really care to help the poor residents in the City of Poughkeepsie, so that creates a lack of healthy food because there is no initiative to help corner stores carry nutritious food.	I agree with an initiative to supply healthy food to those stores. There are other programs across NY state and the country. We have to look outside the box and secure outside resources that will help curb hunger in the City of Poughkeepsie.	I would get involved in any program that would help curb hunger in the City of Poughkeepsie and use my resources to help as well.



Issue 5: Improving public transit

Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
Chris Petsas	Very High	We are working on some things with PACE land and others to develop a better transportation system.	1) Dedicated Main Street Route 2) Bus shelters with solar lighting for night time 3) Offer monthly and yearly passes 4) Improve routes	No	I have not been sold on this idea for many different reasons. At this time I DO NOT SUPPORT such a merger.
Warren Jones	Very High	You have to look at other cities and experts to see what would work to help people travel to and from in a timely fashion when working throughout the week or when not working, on the weekends. If we don't formulate a plan to curb this situation, it'll be a greater issue down the road. This is a big problem. There are enough people that use it, we can't think we don't have the money. The people in charge aren't embracing a solution, they are just keeping the problem in place.	I would talk to the experts from other cities, including New York City, to meet and figure out what would help the City of Poughkeepsie. I believe that we can better the conditions, but we have to put a plan in place, or the current situation will only get worse.	No	The County wanted to take over the City of Poughkeepsie transportation, but the City has a right to take care of it's own transportation. I believe that if the County takes over, it will be worse than what it is now. The City should be able to learn and better their own conditions. If the county takes over, it means that the City doesn't know how to govern their own transportation.



Name	Other comments on the issues of hunger and food insecurity:
Chris Petsas	I support you and Poughkeepsie Plenty 100% and all of your efforts!
Warren Jones	You have people hungry in America and all across the world, and Poughkeepsie isn't excluded from that. The difference is that governments should come together and figure things out so there isn't hunger in their local municipalities.



Ward 2 Candidates

Issue 1: Support for the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market

Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
Zoppanya Fontenot	Dem	Yes	It would be great to have the services of Plenty Fresh expanded to the 2nd Ward as there are limited options for healthy foods in this area.	I would support Plenty Fresh by volunteering time and promoting events using my social media platform, if elected, I would look to develop an interactive website that would promote ongoing progress and services that are available to the community
Mike Young	Dem	Yes	Farmers markets, including travelling ones like Poughkeepsie Plenty's Fresh Market have been shown repeatedly to result in healthier and more successful communities. The City can provide financial support in many creative ways above and beyond the traditional grants and loans. I look forward to helping PPFC join forces with other City programs to take advantage of economies of scale.	The City can and should review its public transit schedule and routes to ensure they provide easy and efficient access to locations offering fresh produce and healthy food like the Poughkeepsie Plenty Food Market. We also need to change our bus policies to make shopping easier, for example by removing the bag limit.
Steven Planck	Ind	Yes	My wife and I very proud to have supported the Poughkeepsie Plenty Partnership with a monetary contribution last year and we will be doing the same this year as well. Now and in the future, I will continue to support the Poughkeepsie Plenty Partnership both as an individual or as your Councilman for Ward 2. Yes, I support them 100%.	I will always continue to support the Partnership in anyway I can and to promote their organization on my web site, in my newsletters, blog posts and on social media. I am fully committed to working together to solve our most basic problems - that's a promise. However unfortunate it may seem, please



Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
				<p>understand that the Poughkeepsie Plenty Partnership is a private organization operated by private individuals who volunteer their time and energies. The day-to-day operations of the Poughkeepsie Plenty are not governed by your City Councilman. So all things being fair and equal - the future success or failures of the Poughkeepsie Plenty are not the fault of your City Council person. I will always offer advice and suggestions when asked, but ultimately I have no say in how they run their business.</p>

Issue 2: A living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	Do you support the passage of a living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	How would you engage the community on the living wage issue?	How would you garner support for a living wage ordinance from members of the Common Council?
Zoppanya Fontenot	No	As it stands, this ordinance would only be beneficial to the residents that live at or below the poverty level. I would support this ordinance if there were added solutions to offset the tax impact to remaining residents	-	-



Mike Young	Yes	I support the State and City's recent move to raise fast food wages to \$15 by 2021, and I believe similar actions need to occur across all industries. Every human being has a right to pursue happiness. When people lack a living wage to ensure their basic needs, we create a society of indentured servants with no hope of bettering their livelihood.	I believe public support for a living wage is strong here in the City of Poughkeepsie. Many of our population live or have lived with incomes below the poverty line, and need no convincing. Many others intrinsically understand the need for a living wage. The rest, I am confident, will agree when presented with facts and evidence that show the minimum wage hasn't grown with inflation, and that increases to the minimum wage result in benefits to communities and not the "horror stories" presented by wage opponents.	Given the results of the recent City resolution in support of a \$15 wage for fast food workers, I'm confident the support is already there. We will need to ensure that concerns related to the budget are addressed, but I believe those can be assuaged by the benefits of higher wages flowing to city workers.
Steven Planck	Yes	If this question addresses the Common Council's August 17, 2015 passage of a \$15 an hour minimum wage requirement in the City - it is of course commendable.	<p>Being the skeptically optimistic person I am, I would have asked for greater analysis of the proposal capable of explaining how all lives would be affected by the wage increase - those of businesses, business owners, employees, residence and tourists alike.</p> <p>I would have wanted answers to basic operational questions such as a) what is the affect of mandating a 71% increase in labor costs on businesses, b) how many businesses might go out of business as a result of the wage increase, c) how will businesses offset the affects of increased labor costs to their bottom line, d) if businesses increase the costs of goods and services to offset the increase in labor costs, will City residence be capable of absorbing those increases, e) what will be the net affect of low income residence who no longer qualify for subsidies because they</p>	The current members of the Council do not need encouraging - they already support the idea. They passed a new law on August 17, 2015.



			<p>make too much money, particularly in cases where they're not working 40 hours a week, f) how many jobs do we anticipate to loose due to wage increases, g) how many City employees currently earn \$14.99 an hour or less, h) what will be the net affect of these wage increases be on the Cities annual operating budget, i) what businesses are affected by the ordinance - all of them, some of them?</p> <p>A business forum in which Poughkeepsie businesses were allowed to explain if their operating margins could afford such a large increase in expenditures seems prudent prior to mandating they do such things, particularly if more ordinances are to follow.</p> <p>I support the idea of wage increases 100%. However, I don't jump into the water without sticking my toe in first - do you? To me, this seems like a carefully planned political tactic to garner support for incumbents days before the primary election occurs.</p>	
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Issue 3: A food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
Zoppanya Fontenot	The focus is taken off of revitalization once households have to choose between paying for expenses versus buying groceries. Food insecurity heavily impacts the children & seniors within our	High	-



Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
	community. Our children will not be unable to reach their full potential if they are hungry. Our seniors having worked most of their life now have to decide whether to buy groceries or their medications because they are on a fixed income. It will take the support of our local businesses and all levels of government to ensure that we are a hunger free city.		
Mike Young	<p>Food insecurity results in children who cannot concentrate in school, adults who cannot participate in the workforce, and people who resort to dangerous and unhealthy alternatives to survive. None of these things is compatible with a vibrant, productive, and healthy City.</p> <p>When people have to worry about where their next meal is going to come from, they don't have time or resources to focus on other aspects of their lives, much less the community and city around them. We need every resident of this City to care about making it a better place, and that means giving them the time and resources to do so.</p>	High	Food security integrates in with several of my existing plans for my first term. I believe that this city needs a supermarket and improved healthy food alternatives in its existing convenience markets. It needs better transit access to those places. The city needs community engagement-- something that community gardens have been proven to spark.
Steven Planck	The conversation of homelessness, food insecurity and poverty are intertwined and also uncomfortable conversations for most individuals to have, but not having these conversations undermines the revitalization of Poughkeepsie.	Medium	My top priorities as councilman will be fiscal sustainability, crime, gun violence, crime prevention, our youth, absentee landlords, job creation and making sure our streets are getting cleaned and our grass is getting mowed on a regular basis.



Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
Zoppanya Fontenot	Yes	On a daily basis, I see people go thru dumpsters looking for food and bottles to return to get food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending the locations where people could receive food • Volunteer delivery service for seniors • Partnering with local farms for healthy food options • Partnering with the school district to further support the weekend backpack program (food items are sent home with children to ensure they have something to eat over the weekend)
Mike Young	Yes	<p>I'm not sure a specific separate resolution like that of San Francisco will have the same effect or "teeth" in a city like Poughkeepsie, but the aspects of such a resolution are absolutely needed in context with other resolutions I intend to bring forward.</p> <p>For example, I want to reopen (and reinvent) our Planning and Economic Development Department, and part of that requires a focus on grants and support for developments that better the health and well-being of our City's residents. A new Dunkin Donuts on Academy St doesn't achieve that, but a new supermarket does.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New commercial development should foster healthy options for residents. - Community gardens improve local health and community engagement, reduce crime and vandalism, improve school results, and they do it all while providing food to families! - Poughkeepsie can benefit from grants and loans for programs focused on health education and food access/nutrition. - Programs assisting residents' access to food should be coordinated to ensure they compliment each other and that they benefit from economies of scale.
Steven Planck	Yes	I would support a resolution, but would need to read it first.	The bible teaches me that learning to fish is far more valuable than receiving a fish. I would want to see how the resolution encourages self reliance.



Issue 4: Supporting healthy retail food options

Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
Zoppanya Fontenot	Yes	I have noted that the stores within my ward have minimal options for healthy food. I find that the cost of basic necessities (bread, milk) are much higher. It would be important for me to find alternatives to help support the families that live within my ward. Public transportation is an option to get to the area supermarkets but it is very difficult to manage multiple bags.	-	-
Mike Young	Yes	See my earlier responses. A city cannot thrive without a healthy population.	I've actually spoken with several local convenience and corner store owners about this very topic, and the responses boiled down to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inability to properly/safely handle or store fresh produce - lack of access to economical/reliable distributors of such food in the small quantities needed - poor sales in comparison to "cheaper" processed foods 	Our bus transit system should favor stops near entities that reflect the vision of the City of Poughkeepsie. Planning and Development monies and assistance should go to organizations that improve residents' lives.



Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
			We can solve these roots of the problem through: concerted education for store owners and clerks; wholesale assistance (perhaps by purchasing through organizations like Poughkeepsie Plenty); and grant/voucher/tax programs that subsidize healthy food rather than unhealthy alternatives.	
Steven Planck	Yes	Yes and I think City of Poughkeepsie residents would benefit greatly from turning abandoned lots into community gardens and selling that produce at a farmers markets along the Waterfront or to Poughkeepsie Plenty for resale on their truck. In fact, the old YMCA is a perfect location for a weekend farmers market.	I would work in a collaborative manor, both with local and NYS officials, to increase the variety and availability of healthy foods being sold in convenient stores by limiting the availability of such stores to accept food stamps or WIC as payment, particularly when the goods being sold are junk foods. I would encourage my colleagues on the Council to limit the hours of convenient stores whose primary business is selling paraphernalia for smoking marijuana, loose cigarettes, tobacco and alcohol.	If they find themselves needing help, I am a business owner with 13 years of experience and I'm happy to share my knowledge and expertise on any topic, including advertising and promotion. For questions on my background and employment history, you can go to my web site, www.imaginechangesparkingprogress.com



Issue 5: Improving public transit

Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
Zoppanya Fontenot	High	In the past, I was reliant on public transportation to get back & forth to work	I think that it would be great to further expand the route options and frequency for city residents to include local businesses, city schools, colleges & the train station. Taking the bus to work versus driving would also cut down on air pollution.	No	Currently, I dont support the merger with the county on transportation as it stands, however, I would support consolidation of services when the right opportunity presents itself
Mike Young	Very High	If it wasn't clear already, one of my major campaign initiatives is to revamp our transit in the city.	I want to make it easier and safer to walk and bike in the city for places that are local enough to do so. In addition we need to rethink our bus routes and schedules. There should be a separate dedicated shuttle along Main St, and the various forms of "shopper's special" routes should be consolidated and redesigned to get people to businesses that benefit them most. I also believe we need to improve how busses (the shopper's special especially) handle riders carrying bags, so that residents can buy the food they need for their families. Ideally also, our busses should encourage other modes of transport by serving people riding	Yes	<p>"It depends"</p> <p>Our bus services overlap quite a bit, but do not integrate correctly in terms of routes or schedules. In addition, both the City and county would benefit economically from shared maintenance and purchasing. These are all good reasons to combine our systems.</p> <p>However, any combination of our systems needs to occur with strong focus on bringing people into and around our city and mustn't siphon our resources to subsidize routes to the rural outskirts of our county.</p>



Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
			bikes.		I believe a combined system makes sense, but there must remain routes that exist entirely within the city limits, and especially routes that focus on the unique needs of our residents (for example, getting to school and shopping for necessities). Any agreement must be written to enforce these requirements.
Steven Planck	Medium	-	<p>Riders of the Poughkeepsie transit system tell me all the time that we have some of the best and friendliest drivers around. They've made some suggestions to improve the efficiency of routes, but again, the overall consensus is that people are very happy - so I have no changes to suggest at this time.</p> <p>If anything, I'll take my direction on this issue from the people. If there was anything that needed to be addressed, I would take those directions from the constituents who</p>	No	<p>The combining of the City bus system with the County bus system was at the very least - contentious and heated. I know this firsthand, because I was in the audience during the months of public participation in which residence spoke in opposition to it.</p> <p>While I do not use the buses myself, when my friends who do tell me it's a bad idea - I believe them.</p>



Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
			use public transportation system. That's the right thing to do. Hopefully you agree.		

Name	Other comments on the issues of hunger and food insecurity:
Zoppanya Fontenot	-
Mike Young	<p>I look forward to working with Dutchess Outreach, Poughkeepsie Plenty, the Poughkeepsie Farm Project and others to make this City a healthy and prosperous one. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like clarifications/details for the items I mentioned here.</p> <p>mike@MikeYoungNY.com</p>
Steven Planck	Thank you for sharing this survey.



Ward 3 Candidates

Issue 1: Support for the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market

Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
Lorraine F Johnson	Dem	Yes	-	-
Damon Crumb	Dem	Yes	Chris Petsas and I discussed providing parking space for the truck at Pulaski Park. He agreed it would be a good idea for servicing both the 1st and north western part of the 3rd Ward which includes the MLK Apartments	Word of mouth and other advertising initiatives

Issue 2: A living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	Do you support the passage of a living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	How would you engage the community on the living wage issue?	How would you garner support for a living wage ordinance from members of the Common Council?
Lorraine F Johnson	Yes	-	-	-
Damon Crumb	Yes	all of the above reasons	through public hearings and ordinances of the Common Council	you already have a 7 to 1 favorable vote. If elected I would vote for it as well



Issue 3: A food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
Lorraine F Johnson	-	High	-
Damon Crumb	Without good food people have health and other issues that create costs for all reflected in health care costs, loss of productivity and other support costs on the back end.	High	-

Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
Lorraine F Johnson	Yes	-	-
Damon Crumb	Yes	-	access to good food within easy walking distance



Issue 4: Supporting healthy retail food options

Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
Lorraine F Johnson	Yes	-	-	-
Damon Crumb	Yes	We now have one fresh market, Tropical Fresh, and need another nearer wards 8, 1 and western 3	none - they are only looking at dollar return per square foot, which to them means beer, wine cigs, etc. If the customers demand it, they will sell it. If not, incentives will not help	Support at local events through discounts of permits

Issue 5: Improving public transit

Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
Lorraine F Johnson	High	-	-	Yes	-
Damon Crumb	Very High	-	Promote a walkable city and bike lanes marked on main streets	Yes	-

Name	Other comments on the issues of hunger and food insecurity:
Lorraine F Johnson	-
Damon Crumb	-



Ward 4 Candidates

Issue 1: Support for the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market

Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
Lee Klein	Rep	No	The City does not currently have funds to support the City of Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market. I am however, more than willing to work with County, State, and Federal officials to provide support for programs that benefit residents of the City of Poughkeepsie. I would also be supportive of efforts on the part of Plenty Fresh to engage in fundraising in the community and in seeking grants from public and private entities.	I would support programs that provide education to residents of the City of Poughkeepsie to assist them in understanding the benefits of maintaining a healthy, well-balanced and affordable diet for themselves and their children. I would also support programs that provide education to the residents in how to construct such a diet and make healthy and affordable choices from among the food options available at local grocery stores and supermarkets.
Nina Boyd	Dem	Yes	The county took 1.4 million of our sales tax revenue so that put us in the garbage business. We need to write some grants for money to support your programs	Grant money

Issue 2: A living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	Do you support the passage of a living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	How would you engage the community on the living wage issue?	How would you garner support for a living wage ordinance from members of the Common Council?



Lee Klein	No	I do not know what you mean by a living wage. I believe that wages should not be controlled by the government. I believe in a fair minimum wage that is suitable for entry-level unskilled and semi-skilled workers.	I would seek input from representatives of the business community, such as the Chamber of Commerce.	I am on the Council and I recently voted against a resolution supporting the New York State Wage Boards recommendation of a \$15/hour minimum wage for employees of fast food restaurants. The dollar figure set was arbitrary and the Wage Board did not have a representative from the Fast Food Industry. Additionally, those who supported this ordinance, did so without any input from the business community.
Nina Boyd	Yes	Because the fast food wage will be 10.00 per hour if passed	By keeping the community up to date with current information	By a resolution

Issue 3: A food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
Lee Klein	You have provided insufficient information about what constitutes food insecurity. The government already provides substantial subsidies relating to food, such as the SNAP program and the year-round school breakfast and lunch program.	Low	I do not have sufficient information regarding what you mean by food insecurity.
Nina Boyd	By forming volunteers and soup kitchens	High	I am a CIA graduate and find that eating healthy is really important



Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
Lee Klein	No	See previous item.	-
Nina Boyd	Yes	It's important to the community	Eat healthy, plan a well balanced food menu

Issue 4: Supporting healthy retail food options

Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
Lee Klein	No	Food stores have plenty of options for affordable and healthy food options.	Consumers should articulate demand for healthy choices.	Encourage people to patronize those stores.
Nina Boyd	No	No because we have bus transportation and associates market is in walking distance	Increase the sale of fresh vegetables and fruits	By grant money and coupons



Issue 5: Improving public transit

Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
Lee Klein	Very High	-	Combine the City bus program into the County bus program.	Yes	The City bus program costs the City \$500,000.00/year that the City does not have.
Nina Boyd	Very High	But our current mayor would like to give our bus system to the county we need to keep it	Combine some routes	No	The city bus system goes in different directions of the county buses and that would promote lay offs for the city of Poughkeepsie which I am against

Name	Other comments on the issues of hunger and food insecurity:
Lee Klein	none.
Nina Boyd	We need more programs to feed the poor



Ward 5 Candidates

Issue 1: Support for the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market

Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
Ann Perry	Dem			
Yvonne Flowers	Ind			

Issue 2: A living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	Do you support the passage of a living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	How would you engage the community on the living wage issue?	How would you garner support for a living wage ordinance from members of the Common Council?
Ann Perry				
Yvonne Flowers				



Issue 3: A food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
Ann Perry			
Yvonne Flowers			

Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
Ann Perry			
Yvonne Flowers			

Issue 4: Supporting healthy retail food options

Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
Ann Perry				
Yvonne Flowers				



Issue 5: Improving public transit

Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
Ann Perry					
Yvonne Flowers					

Name	Other comments on the issues of hunger and food insecurity:
Ann Perry	
Yvonne Flowers	



Ward 6 Candidates

Issue 1: Support for the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market

Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
ShaRon McClinton	Dem	Yes	This is imperative. Many families cannot afford to eat healthy. Even though some receive Food stamps its inadequate. Some utilize the food pantries but prior to their next distribution of their food stamps they run out of food. Some resort to eating unhealthy because that's all they are exposed to, or can reach to feed their family. In addition, some have told me its not healthy but they can stretch their allotted rations by purchasing certain products; in regardless to its potential to be harmful to their health. The practice of providing necessary, nutritious foods for the community is being combated by the food market on wheels. I would like to see it extended to all parts of the city. Therefore, it should be assisted by the City to help keep this going.	I would promote this by word of mouth, advertisement, as I visit and contact members of the community, social media, doctor offices, notices up at developments, hospitals, community events, churches, swimming pools, local on the airwaves from local stations, placed on City website, posters, meetings, family and friend gatherings, and even flyers. All methods to allow people to know.
Natasha Cherry	Dem	Yes	In the difficult economic climate that we are currently in we need to advocate for the sustainability of programs like Poughkeepsie Plenty that address more than one of our communal needs. Food insecurity and lack of transportation are huge city issues. I applaud the efforts of Poughkeepsie Plenty and will definitely support ongoing financial assistance from the city.	I will work closely with Poughkeepsie Plenty to identify ways that will increase the utilization of the Fresh Market.



Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
			It is this type of innovative thinking that will navigate our city out of depressed economic and social circumstances.	
Donde McIlwee	Rep			

Issue 2: A living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	Do you support the passage of a living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	How would you engage the community on the living wage issue?	How would you garner support for a living wage ordinance from members of the Common Council?
ShaRon McClinton	Yes	Absolutely. I know at the current rate families still are unable to afford the necessities of life. Such as food, clothing, shelter, family vacations, medicine, doctor visits, dental work, and social events for children or family as a whole to enjoy. I testified before the Wage Board in Albany, NY about this issue, I know several people whom I have helped professionally that	By having them attend meetings, literature, forums, public events, and speakers that are being effected. I have given many forums and will continue to do so to enlighten people as to what is happening and how we can work together to solve these issues when possible. In addition, social media reaches many and the art of sharing from one person's friend lists to others engulfs many.	By informing them of how it effects the people of the community, facts, bringing their attention to the fact that we do not have rent control here, all are not given option of Section 8 assistance , Public Assistance Grants, Mental Health Programs, or affiliation to programs that help them. Letting them understand this is every day people struggling, but go to work every day. Often taken dangerous risks with their health or children's. for lack of



work each and every day, yet they are staying at the over night shelter, shelter for families, staying in abusive relationships, staying from place to place, and use gas station bathrooms, library, hospitals, and malls to refresh themselves. Still unable to maintain housing for themselves and/or children. Its heart breaking to know some have literally given custody of their children to others for this reason-stability. One woman literally washes her uniform out in sinks to be clean at work but sleeps in a car. Some people stay in abandoned swellings not because they want but because they have no recourses. Shelters are often full here. Its a sin to be employed and cannot afford the mandatory things in life that should be a guarantee, yet as we know are not. I sit on The Common Council as Ward 6 Elective and we just passed an Resolution

sufficient income. Even invite a person to testify before our caucus or meetings. At all cost bring their attention to facts and deletion of not truly understanding the significance of having a living wage for families to sustain themselves.



		Agreement to back to back the wage increase for Fast Food Workers to fifteen dollars(15.00).		
Natasha Cherry	Yes	A living wage ordinance is mandatory in the City of Poughkeepsie. Especially since the average income and cost of living does not coincide.	The community is already engaged around this issue. There are a number of people for and against a minimum wage increase. What we need to do is provide the community with as much information as possible with the hope that we can come to a nonpartisan consensus that a living wage ordinance is necessary.	The best way to garner support is through education and facts. I will present my colleagues with the necessary data to make a well informed decision.
Donde McIlwee				

Issue 3: A food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
ShaRon McClinton	By not providing adequate resources or entities that will enable all to eat, be exposed to , have options, readily availability, affordable, healthy community members, and many diseases are associated with not having proper diets. Therefore, in order to move forward we have to have these things in place. We cannot revitalize a city without considering how those whom live here will be able to live and survive. We must be on same page and that means consider any and all aspects as to what revitalizing entails. If, people are nourished appropriately we are leaving a primary component out. Revitalization aims at making things self- sufficient, better, and provisional visions as what a city should be comprised of. Eating id a major factor in the equation.	Very High	A community has to be able to nourish itself to survive. The people make up society. If, we are unhealthy then we face many more obstacles as well. Diet, availability, affordability plays a huge role in a city's success or failure. This may not be the only factor , yet its paramount.



Natasha Cherry	Needs always take precedence over wants. This is human nature. If our community's needs are not addressed we can not think about revitalization and restoring this city to the Queen City. We have to immediately address the needs of our community, this will promote stakeholder buy-in. Stakeholder buy-in will in return promote community investment. And it is community investment that will improve the quality of life for all of us. Us taking pride in our city and addressing the immediate needs of our community will clear the path to revitalization.	Very High	Food security has always been a priority of mine. I already work closely with a number of food pantries and non profits to address this issue. One of the things I would like to work on as a Common Council Member is to work closely with agencies that address food security issues to develop a food cooperative. The cooperative will be a way for people to give and take food as needed.
Donde McIlwee			

Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
ShaRon McClinton	Yes	It will make it mandatory for the city to make provisional laws for all people to be able to eat. So many people go hungry due to a lack of resources, availability, and often times not knowing where to go or have the capacity to obtain healthy, fresh foods. This will make the City responsible to assure such things as this. In fact, I am going to pose this to my fellow Councilmembers to discuss enacting this now. A country such as ours should never have to face hunger, homelessness, diseases,... when we have solutions but do not put them into use.	The availability of healthy fresh foods. Transportation. Mandate of Supermarkets to carry certain products, support the efforts of agencies that are providing accessibility to community such as the Food Truck Market. Have real rules on what foods are being sold to the community. Urge for gardens to be constructed by community as a whole. Offer education in schools, social service agencies and the like to bring attention to this and providing literature for distribution just to mention a few criteria I would incorporate. Changing the ways we now do to a new and improved collaborative system that works. Nutritionist involved with individuals at doctor offices, too.



Natasha Cherry	Yes	I believe that it is our moral responsibility to take steps that secure the future for our youth and provide a plan of action that addresses the needs of our community.	The primary goal of the food security resolution should be that all residents have access to nutritious food.
Donde McIlwee			

Issue 4: Supporting healthy retail food options

Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
ShaRon McClinton	Yes	Available and affordable . Due to pricing and lack of transportation. Also, knowledge of nutritional matters, too.	Put on display healthy foods. Encourage by offering discounts. Show data of difference in health. Making products available. Pricing to be affordable.	Offer incentive programs. Recognition. Encourage City to offer funds to those who do. Even posing free parking by tickets when shopping there to be validated by proprietors. Free advertisement on website to increase their business Just to mention ways to promote. Our bus can advertise their store, too.
Natasha Cherry	Yes	Although the city has taken huge steps by adding additional food retail stores to the city, the stores are not easily assessible to all. Main Street although centrally located is still a long walking distance for some of our residents. We need to work closely with our corner stores and deli's and develop ways that	I will work collaboratively with the other council members to develop an incentive program. I will independently research state and federal subsidies and grants so that I can provide my colleagues with as much information as possible so that we can develop a sound beneficial incentive program.	I will showcase these stores as much as possible and encourage residents to buy at these establishments.



		these small businesses can provide healthy food options.		
Donde McIlwee				

Issue 5: Improving public transit

Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
ShaRon McClinton	Very High	Serving on Bus Committee redirecting for a more efficient and quality service.	Reroute, extend, and increase times of service.	No	City should conduct business in City County would not include children or move with our neighborhoods. It would cut many residents out for transportation to mandatory places. I. e. doctors.
Natasha Cherry	Very High	Improving public transportation is a sure priority on my list.	I fully realize the need for improving public transportation. I also realize the lack of funding that the city has to expand any of its existing services. My goal on the Common Council is to find solutions to these complex problems by working collectively and collaboratively to identify new funding sources and opportunities that will provide our	No	I am not in support of consolidation if it means a loss of service for city residents. However, if a plan was developed that was both fiscally responsible and served the needs of our residents I would be in support of it.



			city with the much needed economic resources that will assist us in our efforts to improve the quality of life for all our residents.		
Donde McIlwee					

Name	Other comments on the issues of hunger and food insecurity:
ShaRon McClinton	Hunger has been a serious problem but there are solutions to it. We can have community gardens, fresh food markets and neighborhoods trucks to reach all. We can this together.
Natasha Cherry	-
Donde McIlwee	



Ward 7 Candidate

Issue 1: Support for the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market

Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
Randall Johnson II	Dem	Yes	-	-

Issue 2: A living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	Do you support the passage of a living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	How would you engage the community on the living wage issue?	How would you garner support for a living wage ordinance from members of the Common Council?
Randall Johnson II	Yes	-	-	-

Issue 3: A food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
Randall Johnson II	-	High	-



Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
Randall Johnson II	Yes	-	-

Issue 4: Supporting healthy retail food options

Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
Randall Johnson II	Yes	-	-	-

Issue 5: Improving public transit

Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
Randall Johnson II	High	-	-	No	-

Name	Other comments on the issues of hunger and food insecurity:
Randall Johnson II	-



Ward 8 Candidates

Issue 1: Support for the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market

Name	Party	Do you support ongoing financial assistance from the City for the Fresh Market?	Comments	Other than financial assistance, how would you support and promote the Poughkeepsie Plenty Fresh Market?
Tracy Hermann	Dem	Yes	The renowned psycho-social observer Abraham Maslow recognized that a human's base needs of food, water, sleep ... must be met before any other needs can be addressed. This is a truism that dates back far beyond modern times; however, we in modern-day America have an unfounded belief that hunger is not an American issue. The truth is that food scarcity is a reality for many in the City of Poughkeepsie, with many families struggling to get the daily sustenance and nutrition they need to live (much less live effectively). This is a community challenge, one that requires the burden of responsibility to be borne by many ... including local and state governments. The City of Poughkeepsie must prioritize addressing this problem in its next budget.	Via resolutions of support, partner sponsorships (for events), and communications and marketing.
Noreen Martin	Rep	Yes	I fully support the initiative of the Fresh Mobile Market. It is very important to the people of the city who live in food deserts to have access to fresh affordable foods. However, the City is currently under great financial constraints. The economic distress Poughkeepsie is facing has caused the City to decrease public spending.	I believe that the City should actively help to advertise the existence of the mobile market, it's various locations and operating schedule with signage at the locations, as well as at major intersections and on public buildings. Information should be on the City website, on and in City buses and promoted in the press.



Issue 2: A living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	Do you support the passage of a living wage ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	How would you engage the community on the living wage issue?	How would you garner support for a living wage ordinance from members of the Common Council?
Tracy Hermann	Yes	By all means! I just authored a resolution of support (R-15-59) for the New York State's Wage Board's efforts to raise the minimum wage for Fast Food workers, a rising tide that ultimately stands to lift all ships.	Authoring resolutions like the above, hosting and taking part in community dialogue, advocating for my colleagues to join me in doing even more ... such as the sponsorship of a municipal minimum wage.	I would employ the same tactics I employed in garnering their support for the resolution, present them with data and appeal to their base senses that many residents here in the City of Poughkeepsie are working as primary bread-winners in jobs that can scarcely sustain a single person, much less a family.
Noreen Martin	Yes	I believe that the State of New York should pass a living minimum wage statewide. I believe that a living minimum wage is necessary for all members of society. I know many people who work multiple jobs to get by. I recognize it is difficult to survive and thrive on the current minimum wage. My concern is that mandating such a wage within the confines of our City, without it being mandated	I would urge the city government to continue to support a state wide increase that levels the playing field and allows residents to work at a job that enables them to pay their bills, feed and clothe their families.	All members of the Common Council should clearly see that this issue is so basic to human existence. Because they are representatives of the people of the city, they should support the idea. Recently the Common Council discussed this issue and sent a resolution to Albany to support state legislation.



		by the state for all municipalities near us, could lead to businesses relocating outside our borders. Since so many people who work low paying jobs do not have transportation, I feel they would be the ones hurt the most, which contradicts the intent of a local city ordinance to help them.		
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Issue 3: A food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie

Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
Tracy Hermann	As stated in my answer to the first question, an individual's ... a family's first base need lies with food and water, and must be met before any other need is met (like housing, clothing, security, employment ...). Without food security, the other issues become a mute point. We can not talk of a transformative revitalization without first addressing this issue.	Very High	My record of support stands.
Noreen Martin	Poverty is the real problem. People who are poor do not always know when they will eat next. Poverty and hunger lead to all sorts of distress. Food insecurity undermines the revitalization of our city because when fundamental human needs are not met, people tend to despair. Their interests and goals are centered on the fulfillment of their basic needs and not necessarily towards a city renaissance. Children and youth are the future of our city. Education is key to	Very High	In order to bring back pride to City residents, they need to feel safe and secure. Food security is a part of that equation. When basic human needs are met, citizens can work together to revitalize Poughkeepsie.



Name	How do you think food insecurity undermines revitalization of our city?	Where does food security fit as a priority for you in your first term?	Comments
	success. Children who are hungry cannot concentrate on their studies. It is imperative that the youth of our City do not go to bed hungry or arrive at school unprepared for learning. The future of Poughkeepsie depends on its youth.		

Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
Tracy Hermann	Yes	I would indeed ... for all the reasons indicated above.	Funding for mobile market, initiatives that foster urban agriculture and community farmer markets and that establish the City as a lead in helping establish those.
Noreen Martin	Yes	A food security resolution is important for the city of Poughkeepsie. Our population should have unencumbered access to fresh food and transportation to food. Our children should not live their lives in hunger.	Goals of a food security resolution should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City government should make it a priority to get a competitive grocery store in the first ward and any ward determined to be a food desert. • City promotion of the mobile farmer's market food truck with signage regarding locations and times and other publicity, so that those who live in an area designated as a food desert are aware of the opportunity the food truck provides. • Indoor venues should be established for the truck so that it can do business in



Name	Do you support a food security resolution for the City of Poughkeepsie?	Why or why not?	What goals do you consider important to include in a food security resolution?
			warehouse buildings during the months of November through May. • Until food access is expanded in the City, low cost shopper transportation and more buses scheduled specifically for shoppers should be created.

Issue 4: Supporting healthy retail food options

Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
Tracy Hermann	Yes	By all means. A good number of Poughkeepsie's residents -- including many of those who live on the North side -- rely on public transportation. Considering that the grocers that provide the diversity of selection and affordable pricing are outside of the City, this poses a substantial challenge. The City's buses are limited in their time and scope. Many of our families are single parent, have limited access to child care ... coordinating a trip to the	Participation in healthy retail food programs and incentives to do so (I'd even consider advocating for tax incentives).	Post a list of such stores on my website and promote via my Social Media networks and encourage the City to do the same.



Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
		grocery store is often a gargantuan effort. What many of us take for granted, becomes a source of anxiety and angst for many who live in food scarcity.		
Noreen Martin	Yes	There are many City residents who do not have the option of jumping into their cars and going grocery shopping at the store of their choice. Some City residents share rides with friends, neighbors or relatives to be able to shop at a store with fresh produce and competitive prices. Larger grocers are able to provide fresh items in greater quantities with competitive prices because they acquire their provisions in volume. The smaller corner stores in the City do not have options when they buy their inventory. Corner stores do not have the luxury of quick turn around on their products and so variety and price are limited	The City should encourage small markets and corner stores to establish a cooperative business community, to enable them as a group to purchase their wholesale goods at a better price.	The City of Poughkeepsie can promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program by placing information listing the stores engaging in the program on the city website and encouraging those stores to have links to their websites from the City site. Stores who participate in the healthy retail food program can be given preference in advertising on City buses.



Name	Do you think that the lack of healthy retail food options is a problem?	Why or why not?	What incentives would you propose for corner stores to increase the amount of healthy foods they sell?	What would you do to promote stores that participate in a healthy retail food program?
		to their consumers.		

Issue 5: Improving public transit

Name	How important to you is improving public transportation?	Comments	What would you do to improve transportation options in the city?	Last year there was a proposal to combine the City and County bus systems. Is this a good idea?	Why or why not?
Tracy Hermann	Very High	For all of the reasons cited above.	I currently sit on the City's Bus Service Committee -- a committee that is looking for ways to improve the efficiency and level of service for the City's buses. We are exploring expanded scheduling, better wayfinding and easier access points.	No	I'm not opposed to some level of shared services, but removing the City as the lead in its bus system stands to, in effect, more greatly disenfranchise those who rely daily on public transportation.
Noreen Martin	Very High	Improving our public transportation system is important in increasing the ability of our residents to have	The city should develop low cost shopper transportation with fewer restrictions regarding maximum baggage. There should be more buses scheduled specifically	Yes	Combining services with Dutchess County is a good idea as long as it improves the lives of city residents and does not diminish the options and routes they currently enjoy.



		access to fresh foods at competitive prices.	for shoppers that route only to grocery stores. With more scheduled routes, buses should have more space to accommodate people and their groceries.		
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Name	Other comments on the issues of hunger and food insecurity:
Tracy Hermann	Thank you for all the work that you do!
Noreen Martin	I heartily applaud the years of dedication and effort the members of Poughkeepsie Plenty have given in order to lead Poughkeepsie in the direction where all residents have the ability to easily access affordable, fresh, healthy food.

