



Challenger Peper: 'It's time for the next wave of leaders'

By Diane Knich
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Local attorney Mark Peper is new to politics, but he says he's a familiar face in Charleston County and in touch with the needs of people in his district.

The former Charleston County Park and Recreation commissioner is seeking his first elected office.

"We need some younger people in politics," the 30-year-old Peper said. "It's time for the next wave of leaders to come in and step up."

One of the most important issues facing County Council is dealing with the need for roads and other infrastructure in a growing county, he said.

"If we're going to invite people to move to Charleston County and West Ashley, we have to provide a way for them to get to work, church and school," Peper said.

Key issues for him include completing the Mark Clark Expressway project and alleviating traffic on West Ashley's congested arterial roads.

Peper also said that if he's elected, he'll push for solutions to overcrowding at the Charleston County Detention Center. The county broke ground on a jail expansion but more needs to be done, he said.

The county also needs to speed up the judicial process so people aren't detained so long, he said. That will free up space in the jail.

In his West Ashley district, Peper said he would work with residents and homeowners associations to deal with crime, which he said is on the rise.

Peper also said people who live in West Ashley need "reflective representation," and they're not getting that now. "This is a Republican district," he said.

He plans to serve his constituents by being fiscally conservative, "looking over taxpayers' money and keeping track of where it's spent."

Mark Peper (District 7)



Mark Peper (District 7)

PARTY: Republican.

BIRTHDATE: Aug. 6, 1978.

FAMILY: Wife, Emily Peper; parents, Warren and Judy Peper.

EDUCATION: Law degree, University of South Carolina; bachelor of arts, Wofford College.

OCCUPATION: Lawyer.

PREVIOUS ELECTED OFFICE: None.

SOMETHING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME: "I like to cook. I love the kitchen. My favorite dish to prepare is homemade pasta."

ONE SPECIFIC GOAL: "To maintain open lines of communication with my constituents."

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