

John Chapman – 2018 Candidate Survey

1. Please introduce yourself and describe why you are seeking a seat on the Alexandria City Council

I am John Taylor Chapman, a fourth generation Alexandrian, who grew up in Alexandria's public housing, graduated from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, and returned to Alexandria after college to start a career in education. I currently working for Fairfax County Public Schools, after previous positions with Fairfax County Government and Alexandria City Public Schools. I have served on Alexandria City Council since 2012. In 2016, I founded Manumission Tour Company, which focuses on telling the Alexandria African American story through bus and walking tours.

I am seeking a seat in order to continue working on school capacity issues, housing affordability, creating a better business climate in my hometown. I have a record of taking my personal and professional experience and applying it in order to create good public policy.

2. How do you think the City should approach attracting new businesses to locate in Alexandria

I think we need to work with local industry leaders to ensure that local business and planning policies do not run counter to what is needed for specific industries to find a home in Alexandria. Next, we need to ensure that our education system as well as quality of life are strong, in order to attract young workers and young families to Alexandria. We also need to work with the development community to help upgrade our commercial office space, particularly around our transportation hubs and our train stations, to ensure that our businesses have access to multi-modal transportation.

3. How do we maintain and enhance Alexandria's position as a complete community with thriving commercial and retail businesses, highly ranked schools, workforce and affordable housing, vibrant and walkable neighborhoods and open spaces for recreation?

We maintain it by addressing the challenges to our position as a complete community. We need to continue to find creative ways to address housing affordability, traffic congestion, aging school infrastructure, teacher and city employee competitiveness, and proper transit and neighborhood planning.

4. What's your plan to simplify City government processes that affect the ability of businesses to invest, open, operate, and be successful in Alexandria?

I would like to put together a task force of business owners that take a sharp and specific look at the policies that are slowing down businesses in our city, issue a report and work with council and city staff to enact a plan for changing these policies.

5. What do you feel are the most pressing state and regional issues affecting Alexandria?

Sewer infrastructure, Funding for school infrastructure, Funding for metro and other transit projects,

