

Announcement Speech: April 9, 2007

Good Morning! I am pleased to announce my candidacy for the Democratic Nomination for Charlottesville City Council. Thirty three years ago, my family put down our roots here and committed to making this a great place to live. I believe that my years of leadership and service in the community have prepared me for this office.

In talking with many citizens in both the City and the County, I have heard again and again that they expect their public officials and governments to work together – in good faith - to seek solutions to our problems that are beneficial for everyone. We need collaborative solutions to improve the lives of ALL our citizens.

I will work for our young people, a sustainable environment, and cooperation with our county neighbors. I will bring fiscally responsible, effective, common sense leadership to City Council.

I know the power of a community working together. As a member of the IMPACT Board, I was part of the effort that brought more than 1,300 people to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center to discuss affordable housing and transportation. We must take a regional approach to solve many of the problems facing us – the problems of affordable housing, transportation, fire and rescue service, parks and recreation, and environmental sustainability. I will build on my experience working with our neighbors---UVA and Albemarle, and beyond.

I have served as City School Board Chairman, CATEC Board Chairman, Executive Director of the Charlottesville Area School Business Alliance, and as a member of the Piedmont Workforce Network Board. I know that a quality education leads to good career opportunities and I will work to expand opportunities so that students graduate with work-readiness skills. We must work together to ensure that ALL Charlottesville students are well prepared to be productive citizens.

With the City Council and School Board now equally elected bodies, my none years of experience on the School Board puts me in a unique position to help build on this relationship.

As a city, we must reduce our local contribution to global warming. I will work to promote more energy efficiency in our buildings through incentives to build and renovate using green design and standards. Our transportation system should be expanded to encourage greater use of buses and other forms of mass transit. Partnerships can be developed with employers to provide vanpools. We must protect our trails and parks and increase our tree canopy.

We are people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives – we must come together and work together as ONE COMMUNITY. I pledge my commitment to bring us together.

Please visit my website: www.LindaSeaman.net for more information as this campaign grows. Thank you very much.