

Questions and Answers: Ted Brown and Yancy McGill

Jun. 01, 2008

The Sun News
Myrtle Beach, SC

Q. | What assistance can you offer rural residents in your district, as in providing public transportation and providing services, such as water and sewer?

Ted Brown | One of the things that has got to happen, we have to work with the water and sewer district, so they can provide services. You've got to have water and sewer, not only for residential usage, but for commercial hook ups. We've got to work along with economic development. We've got to have a connector with the public transportation.

Yancey McGill | In my 20 years in the Senate, we have secured more than \$1 billion in funding for Senate District 32.

Public transportation needs are being well met, as Williamsburg County has one of the finest transit systems in the entire State. Georgetown County has a new transit system being designed and will be implement in the near future through County Council.

This includes \$35 million in funding for water and sewer projects all over District 32. Plans are under way for \$14 million more in water and sewer projects. We have new and renovated health complexes, enhancements to our recreational parks and facilities, state-of-the-art libraries and senior centers, and improvements to our technical colleges.

Q. | What efforts will you make to boost the economy in your district?

Brown | Everything starts with education. We've got to provide for all the lottery money to go to K-12 education. We've got to provide initiative for people to start small businesses. We've got to create small business clusters.

We will continue our work to attract more industries, and encourage our existing industries to expand within our area.

McGill | We will continue our work to attract more industries, and encourage our existing industries to expand within our area. In these 20 years, our unemployment has dropped from 21 percent to 7.6 percent, an historical low for Williamsburg County. The four-laning of Highway 52 to the Port of Charleston was a major economic success for our area, as well as the new construction at our airports, and our new industrial parks. Our area has become a desired location for new industries because of hard working employees, industrial incentives, and infrastructure in our new industrial parks. We are working on marketing programs to increase tourism in our area, as it is so very important to our state's economy.

Q. | What are the major needs that you see in your district?

Brown | Employment, employment, employment. When a person cannot work and have decent benefits, it's tough. It puts the whole community in chaos. In Williamsburg County, we need a decent healthcare system between Lake City and Kingstree. If something happens, people go to Georgetown or Florence. That would provide jobs and make the area more attractive for industry.

McGill | There will always be room for improvement. Education has always been a top priority for me, and as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I have always fought for full educational funding, which has resulted in smaller classrooms, teacher salary increases to bring South Carolina in line with others in the Southeast, improved overall maintenance, and the vital First Steps program for our younger children. One project that is still underway is I-73, which will be major for this region, and we will continue to work for funding to resurface and maintain our existing roads.

Note: Laurie Alston did not respond to questions.